

THE Concordia Courier

Investigate. Inform. Ignite. Involve.

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Volume 7, Issue 6

Concordia University Irvine

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Haitian student blessing on campus

HALEY HOLMES
STAFF WRITER

Concordia welcomes Haitian student Jean Enock Berus to campus as he focuses on receiving a degree in Education.

Leogane, Haiti, is where 25-year-old Enock calls home, where he lives with his mother, sister, two brothers, and a cousin. In Haiti, he worked as a seventh and eighth grade math and English teacher at a Lutheran school, was a youth group leader, and also worked with many mission teams as a translator. He is fluent in both French and Creole, and he learned English at the age of 22. He loves sports, especially soccer and volleyball, and also enjoys playing bass.

Oct. 3 was Enock's first day of classes, and thus far he could not be happier with his Concordia experience. "I'm very happy with the way people receive me. They are very kind, and as a foreigner they see me as both a friend and a brother," Enock said.

His journey to Concordia involved several procedures, which included both international and financial aspects. "There were many hurdles to overcome, but President Krueger and the Executive Council jumped on board to create a partnership, and step-by-step things came together," said Quinton Anderson, Campus Pastor.

Enock and the Haiti mission team met in the summer of 2011 when he served as their translator. During this trip, Enock, the students, and the faculty members developed meaningful relationships, which ultimately led to Enock's attendance

at Concordia. "The conversation was so normal, so natural, and through it I could see what a blessing he was to each of our students and what a blessing those students were to him," Anderson said.

David Burgford, Executive Director of Regional Expansion, was another faculty member on the trip. "Right after the Haiti earthquake in 2010, I traveled with St. Paul Lutheran Church to help with the devastation, and in 2011 I returned with Concordia's team where we were blessed to meet Enock," Burgford said.

At the age of 25, Enock has already had to overcome struggles that many people will never face in their lives. "I marvel at his life story and the great joy that he brings in the midst of any situation," Anderson said. "He has a remarkable strength of faith in Christ and a strong desire for others to have life in Christ as well."

The entire process of coming to the United States for the first time, becoming fluent in English, and earning a degree in Education makes Enock a shining example for his community and church in Haiti. "As a Lutheran, I am very happy because my church back home sees me as an example and are now encouraging kids at a younger age to get educated and work hard, because God works miracles," Enock said.

"Enock has tremendous maturity, integrity, and lets the Lord lead his life," Burgford said. Concordia is blessed with the opportunity to assist Enock with his studies in Education and is looking forward to the day when he can return to Haiti and continue to teach and spread the Lord's Word.



Enock with his mom, sister, and cousin in Haiti

Men's soccer still kicking

DANIELLE RAYMUS
STAFF WRITER

The men's soccer team has come out strong this season with a 17-2-1 record. The team's hard work and winning record earned them the GSAC regular season title two weekends ago. The men competed in the GSAC Tournament Championship Sat., Nov. 10. Concordia defeated San Diego Christian (SDC) with a score of 3-0. Because of their tremendous success, the team has a spot in the upcoming National Tournament.

Team members were looking forward to the GSAC Tournament Championship, which is considered one of the biggest games of the season. "[Concordia and San Diego Christian] have both been working really hard, and it should be a good turnout. They are going to come out strong, and so will we," said Nicholas Marcos, junior.

The team stressed the importance of coming out with a win. "We had our minds set on the tournament GSAC Championship, not only because it is a game for a title, but the result can help the team in our national ranking and give us more confidence for Nationals," said Omar La Piedra, junior.

The team has high hopes for the remainder of the season as they make their way into the national tournament. "Last year, we got cut short. We lost the championship and the conference, but this year we have a really good chance to win Nationals," said Horacio Abaroa, sophomore. "Right now

we're ranked 3rd in the nation (in RPI), and no other school in California is ranked in the top 25." However, the team has some obstacles to overcome before reaching its goal of winning Nationals. "Everyone wants to win the national title, but first you have to get to the national site," said Chris Gould, Director of Men's Soccer. "The important part is focusing on your priorities game by game."

"We are focusing on just getting better each game and hopefully building momentum towards Nationals," said Christian Ramirez, senior, who scored two goals against SDC on Saturday.

"We work hard every practice; we are doing a good job individually as students and athletes. We have to come together as a team to be able to win," Piedra said. "Winning the GSAC conference means a lot to every single player on the team, but it means a lot more to be able to play and compete with such a talented team. We are in a position in which we enjoy playing together, and that will be a key to keep winning."

Gould also explained that the members of the team work as a really close unit. "We have a very strong team – the strength is the team. They work hard for one another," Gould said.

For more information on supporting the men's soccer team, which enters the NAIA National Tournament with the No. 1 seed, visit www.cuieagles.com. Their first match of Nationals will take place this Saturday at the Eagles' field. It is tentatively scheduled to occur between 12 and 2.



FYE Free Shuttle Service

SARINA GRANT
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The First Year Experience (FYE) Department is providing a free shuttle service to various places in the Orange County community for freshman students without cars.

"We are always looking for what the need is of first year students and how we can meet that need as a department," said Kristy Fowler, Director of FYE Programs and Initiatives. The addition of the FYE free shuttle service comes after the new policy that prevents freshmen from having cars on campus. "With the new car policy, we wanted to make sure that students didn't feel stuck on campus, and that they had things to do in the community," Fowler said.

The free shuttle service has already taken students to the Irvine Spectrum and Corona del Mar beach. Two more events will take place this semester with additional outings currently being planned for spring.

"Not having a car forces me to stay on campus pretty much all the time," said Rikelle Mendonsa, freshman. "It's hard to buy groceries and toiletries and get to the airport when I go home. I do appreciate the shuttle service. I used it to go to the beach; however, I would use it more if it didn't conflict with my classes."

"I feel like not having a car has negatively impacted my first year experience. It's very frustrating to have to search out rides and be dependent on others when I want to go anywhere," said Lianna

Jordan, freshman. "I like the idea of the shuttle service. It's nice to have a few more options of things to do. I used it to go to Corona del Mar and had a blast!"

Danny Kimble, junior in charge of FYE Freshmen Shuttle Service, reserves and prepares the vans to go off campus, and oversees providing an enjoyable experience for the attendees. Shuttle destinations are publicized by Facebook event postings and through the Peer Advising Leaders who work directly with first year students.

"It's their first year on campus, and they don't have a car. The free shuttle service gives them an opportunity to get to places that aren't as easy for them to go to," said Kimble. "It brings different groups of people together and gives them an opportunity to spend time together bonding off campus."

"We want our students to have positive first year experiences. It's our responsibility to step in and try and make that happen—if it's feasible—using the resources that we have to hopefully provide that for them," said Fowler.

The FYE Department is currently looking for passionate students who are interested in sharing their ideas for future shuttle destinations in an attempt to expand the program. To share your suggestions, contact Kristy Fowler or Danny Kimble.

The next FYE free shuttle service destination will be to Disneyland today from 3-9 p.m. The concluding event of the semester will take students to the Orange County Great Park on Dec. 1 from 1-4 p.m.

From British Eyes Only

Colonial Education 101: Part 3, Sports

LAWRENCE OXBOROUGH
STAFF WRITER

Welcome back class. I must say it's good to see that not too many of you were too insulted by our last lesson, and you managed to find the resolve to return and improve yourselves further. This week we will be looking at sports, as sports are something that I understand to be incredibly important to you Americans, even though 35.7% of American citizens still manage to be obese (according to <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>).

America's national sport is baseball, a sport which in England is remarkably similar to the girls' summer pastime game of rounders. Additionally, basketball, which is another great American sport, can be easily related to another girls' sport — netball.

Now you should start to notice a pattern emerge here. These American sports played by "manly men" with beards are very closely related cousins to sports played by dainty English girls who play them because they enjoy socialising, or because they're made to since sports are compulsory for all English students aged 16 and under (this helps with the obesity problem you have on this side of the Atlantic, but that's next week's lesson).

Do not be disheartened though, because not all of your favourite sports are supposed to be played by girls. American football can be related to rugby, which is possibly one of the manliest sports on the planet. In rugby, however, the use of personal equipment is restricted to a gum shield, a scrum cap (optional) and a thin toughened fabricated padded shirt (also optional), instead of full shoulder pads (toughened plastic), upper arm pads, elbow pads, rib pads, hip pads, thigh pads, knee pads, a helmet (with faceguard), gloves, and spandex leggings.

Rugby and American football also differ in

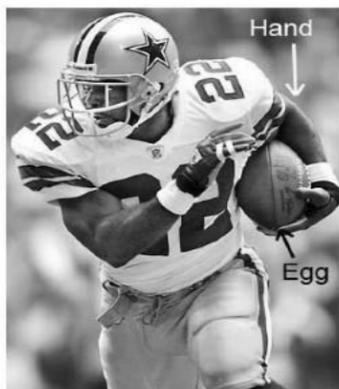
the amount of time played. American football games consist of four 15-minute quarters, giving a maximum of one hour playing time, provided the game doesn't end in a draw and go into overtime, which lasts no longer than 15 minutes. However, the amount of actual time played is drastically reduced, because each time the ball touches the floor, everyone has to line up again, work out who's going to do what, and then another seven-second play begins before everyone decides it's time for another commercial break. In rugby, the game is divided into two 40 minute halves, which could also get extended if at the end of the 80 minutes of uninterrupted play (which may be lengthened in the case of an injury that stops play) the score is tied. Many countries around the globe play rugby, and only America plays American football. So, if you want to be taken seriously as a country, stop bragging about being "world champions" at a sport you alone play, and learn that, when playing with an egg shaped ball, you can only pass backwards whilst trying to move it forwards. Work it out.

Lastly, the most popular sport in the world is football. Known as football everywhere in the world apart from America—where it's known as soccer—football is a game where you actually use your feet to kick a spherical ball, unlike in America where you use your hands to throw an egg shaped ball (again, if you want to be taken seriously, you may want to consider a name change for American football). Therefore, the name of football is justified, and since the rest of the world has got it right, stop being the stubborn minority and accept that the sport is called football, not soccer.

On that note, that just about concludes today's lecture. Remember, if you want to play a real sport, look at what the other countries are playing and copy them.



Football



Handegg

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Editorial: Catch Better Zzz's

TAYLOR BUNDY
STAFF WRITER

With finals quickly approaching, some students may wonder how to achieve the best possible sleep while still preparing for exams. While there is not a straightforward answer for everyone, there are some general do's and don'ts.

According to the National Sleep Foundation (NSF), it is important to establish a regular sleep and wake schedule, even on the weekends. This may be difficult for some students whose classes start at different times every other day. Even occasionally staying up late to finish a paper is detrimental to a good night's rest because it messes with our internal biological clock.

The NSF says the average adult needs 7-9 hours of sleep a night. They maintain that sleeping significantly less than seven hours or more than nine can be equally harmful. NSF researchers have found that getting 4-5 hours of sleep just once or twice a week can have damaging effects on the body leading to diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure. On the flip side, the old phrase "too much of a good thing" rings true. The NSF discovered that sleeping over 10 hours a night leads to a sedentary lifestyle, which promotes the same health problems as getting too little sleep.

"It all depends on the person," said Diana Lam-Wong, Wellness Center Nurse Practitioner. "Some people sleep four hours, and they're just fine their whole life. Some people sleep 10 hours, and it's still not enough." Although research groups like the NSF suggest 7-9 hours of sleep, the right amount is ultimately dependent on the individual.

According to a recent survey of Concordia students, only 15% are meeting the amount of sleep they think they need. The average student thinks eight hours of sleep is right for his or her body, but the vast majority say they usually get six hours of sleep per night.

"To measure if you're getting enough sleep, see how refreshed you feel when you wake up," said Lam-Wong. If you wake up after a long sleep but still feel groggy, it may be a sign that you are sleeping too long. It is also important to sleep in increments of 90 minutes, so taking a nap for two hours would be a bad idea. If your alarm wakes you up while you are in the REM cycle (which first occurs 90 minutes after falling asleep) your body may feel unresponsive and disoriented. Instead, take a nap for an hour and a half, or even three hours if you need to.

If you get regular sleep but still feel tired at certain times throughout the day, the Mayo Clinic recommends taking catnaps of 10-30 minutes around 2 or 3 p.m. This is the time most people feel a lower level of alertness. Catnapping has proven to help reaction times and memory functions, while enabling the brain to function at a high rate even longer.

Sleeping without disturbances even helps long-term memory. Lam-Wong recommends reviewing class notes 30 minutes before you go to bed. The difference between reviewing throughout the semester and cramming the night before an exam is that the former has great long-term memory benefits when combined with a good night's sleep.

Another tip for sleeping well is to create a relaxing routine before bed. It is also helpful to start turning off bright lights at least 30 minutes before you expect to fall asleep. The NY Times reported a study that discovered the artificial light from a computer or smart phone could disrupt brain chemicals that promote sleep. If turning off electronics half an hour before you sleep is impossible, at least dim the screen.

The NSF says we spend one-third of our lives sleeping, but it is far from being unproductive. Our sleep "plays a direct role in how full, energetic, and successful the other two-thirds of our lives can be."

Faculty Letter: Dr. Adam Francisco Despite our monumental obstacles....

Late last summer I had the privilege of spending some time with marines from Camp Pendleton. All of them had just come home to the United States from a combat tour in Afghanistan. For some it was their second or even third deployment. For most, it was their first. Every one of them, however, had spent more than their fair share of time living in a foreign land, patrolling rugged terrain, and pursuing a determined enemy.

Their meals came mostly from a vacuum-sealed plastic pouch and were eaten while squatting outdoors in the dust. Rarely did they sleep more than four hours at a time. Even rarer was the use of a toilet, and almost unheard of was the privilege of a shower. None of them really complained about any of this. Most made jokes about it, in fact. As our time wore on, though, some of them began to share stories about their fallen comrades. Most of them knew someone who didn't make it back from Afghanistan. A few tearfully recounted the last few moments they had with friends before they breathed their last. Each and every one of them expressed regret that they weren't the ones taken instead.

A humbling experience, to say the least!

All of this was eclipsed by the beginning of fall semester 2012 at Concordia University when

faculty opened fire by handing out their syllabi and students immediately responded (apparently learning something from last year's core history reading in Sun Tzu's Art of War) by gathering and sharing intel on how to pass their courses with minimal effort.

A three month war of attrition ensued. Faculty continued to insist that students read and attend class, while students determinedly ignored them. Those of us who eat in the cafeteria have had our spirits crushed when our made-to-order breakfast burrito didn't come out just right. Some of us have even had to suffer the physical hardship of hiking from Egypt to our offices and classrooms. Life is hard in Irvine, California, particularly if you lose sight of what life could be like. Thank God for Thanksgiving break!

Let's not squander our time off though. At the very least, perhaps our time away will afford us the opportunity to reflect on just how unique—and perhaps privileged—our life at university is. Where else are you free to read and learn amidst your friends? When and where will you ever be able to order your life the way you do? Where else can you get away with wandering around in public in your pajama pants? Probably nowhere. Enjoy your break and give thanks for your many blessings.

THE Concordia Courier

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Primary funding provided by
the Office of the Provost

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The fraternity's founding class

Brother, you have a charter now

KEANE ANRIG
STAFF WRITER

Three weekends ago, nine Concordia students flew to Denver, Colorado, for a Delta Sigma Pi conference. These students are part of Rho Phi on campus, which is Concordia's chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity that has more than 300 chapters and over 220,000 members worldwide.

On Oct. 27, 2012, Concordia students attended Delta Sigma Pi's LEAD (Leadership and Excellence Academies for Deltasigs) School. Seminars were held on a variety of professional issues. These ranged from conflict management and resolution to leadership. There were over 300 students from across the nation present. This was a great experience for everyone; students had a unique networking experience, and Concordia's Rho Phi received its charter. "This is the greatest thing to ever happen to the Business Department at Concordia," said Nathan Vigstrom, Chancellor of the Rho Phi chapter, junior.

The charter contains not only the names of the founding students, but it also recognizes Rho Phi

as an official chapter of Delta Sigma Pi. It will be located in the front of the business department in Grimm Hall. Concordia students were also able to participate in fundraising events as well as a community service event. "I'm very proud of what we have established here at Concordia University and becoming the first ever Business Fraternity on campus," said senior Stevan Cantero, President of the Rho Phi chapter.

This was a great experience for the students. They were able to meet like-minded individuals and to learn crucial business skills. Rho Phi is not only a chapter where students meet, but where they operate the chapter as a business. Students learn skills on raising money, recruiting, and other key business attributes. The chapter has been hosting professional speakers, bringing outside expertise to the student body at no cost.

Rho Phi's future looks bright with an expanding student base, continuation of professional events, and opportunities to give students real world experience. Cantero is optimistic about the fraternity's potential. "It's a great feeling knowing that you're a part of something that has the ability to impact the university."

Aliens!! And science too

ALICIA HARGER
LAYOUT EDITOR

Fri., Nov. 10, astronomer Tim Thompson gave an astronomy lecture on the Kepler Project and the search for extra solar planets. The Kepler project is essentially a large telescope sent into orbit to take pictures of distant star systems. Extra solar planets are simply planets that exist outside our solar system. The search for these planets is guided by the potential of finding extraterrestrial life.

After his highly informative lecture, Thompson was joined by a panel of professors to field questions from the audience. Dr. Jim Bachman, Dr. Susan Bachman, Dr. CJ Armstrong, and Dr. Rod Soper participated on the panel.

Thompson is retired now, but he worked at Jet Propulsion Laboratories as a physicist for 28 years after receiving his Master's degree from Cal State Los Angeles. There he worked with Cassini, the Spitzer space telescope, and the Voyager shuttle. Thompson very much enjoyed his time as a research scientist. "Every once in awhile you'll discover something new. For a few days, you are the only people who know that information. It's a very cool feeling," said Thompson. He now spends his time at Mt. Wilson observatory leading tours as a docent.

Thompson's lecture went into great detail about the workings of the Kepler project. The project's primary mission is "to explore the structure and diversity of planetary systems with special emphasis on determining the frequency of Earth-sized planets in the Goldilocks zone." In layman's terms, the Kepler project is looking for planets likely to host life. The Goldilocks zone refers to the area of space around a star where the planet would be not too hot or too cold, but just right.

So far, the Kepler project, which has been running since 2009, has found 2,321 potential planets. Of those planets, about 900 are approximately Earth-sized. Of the Earth-sized planets, 45 appear to be in the habitable zone. If we apply the data

collected by the Kepler project in just one small section of the sky to the entire galaxy, we reach an approximate 100 million Sun-like stars hosting Earth-like planets. That number is solely for this galaxy. There are millions more galaxies with presumably similar structures.

These astronomical (pun intended) figures baffle the mind. They also lead to speculation about life on other planets. The panel of professors joined Thompson to answer questions about the possibility of extraterrestrial life and the theological implications of such life.

Thompson believed that the Goldilocks zone is a fair constraint to apply to the search for life. All life as we know it needs some sort of water, so we must limit ourselves to that parameter. Thompson is also quite certain that, if another intelligent species wanted to contact us from across the galaxy, we would easily be able to discern their signal. He also assured that another alien species would be able to detect the signals we are sending out. Thompson thinks that it is highly likely that life exists elsewhere in the universe. It remains too large for us to imagine that our condition is unique.

Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Jim Bachman were not worried about the theological implications of extraterrestrial intelligence. When asked about what aliens would do to our theological paradigm, Armstrong shrugged it off saying, "Not much." Jim Bachman waxed a little more verbose, but the sentiment held true. "Speculation seems to push us to talk of a creator... It becomes incredibly speculative to imagine what a creator would have done in other places," he said.

There were some cautious voices when talk of alien contact got too excited. "We've evolved from predators... We might expect a not entirely friendly relation with another species," said Thompson.

This lecture was part of a blooming interest in the science of Astronomy by Concordia. As well as the new Astronomy class, there is talk of a new science building in the works and potentially an observatory.



The Concordia business fraternity receives its Rho Phi charter in Denver, CO

SHIFT your focus

TAYLOR WELLS
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 28, on-campus club Live2Free is hosting a free screening of a new documentary on anti-human trafficking by international organization Liberty in North Korea (LiNK). Live2Free is "a grassroots movement that's trying to get a lot of college students involved in anti-human trafficking on campus," said Club President Amanda Ozaki, sophomore.

The club hosted a LiNK screening last year with a turnout of about 20 student attendees. This year, though, the club hopes to promote a much bigger event.

LiNK, started in Torrance by a North Korean refugee, is a two-part organization dedicated to freeing those enslaved by the horrors of human trafficking in North Korea. One sector of LiNK consists of rescue teams who smuggle people out of North Korea and into South Korea via China. "They put them in rehabilitation places where they can get food...because they are usually on the brink of starvation when they're leaving," said Ozaki. The other part of the LiNK team stays in the U.S. to promote awareness, screen their documentaries around the country, and try to get funding from the U.S.

Their newest documentary is called "SHIFT," because LiNK wants to shift people's attitudes of North Korea from nuclear weapons and bombs

to the 3 million people who are starving per year. The short documentary features footage of actual smuggling operations to show what it takes to conduct one of these missions. "It tells narratives of people who have survived [and] people whose families are still stuck over there," said Ozaki, "just kind of giving a face to the names."

Live2Free was founded at Vanguard University and brought to Concordia about four years ago, but it dwindled in numbers last year. Ozaki is motivated to revitalize the club and promote awareness of this modern day form of slavery. "It's not really something people normally just think about," said Ozaki, "but there's a growing movement against human trafficking, and kind of an increase in awareness, especially for Orange County, for how big the problem is."

The "SHIFT" screening will be in the DeNault auditorium, complete with snacks, a LiNK merchandise sale, an opportunity to donate to LiNK, and a meet-and-greet with the LiNK team. Event details are to come and will be publicized by Live2-Free signage around campus.

Live2Free meets one Monday a month at 8:30 p.m. in Sigma Square. The club is also sponsoring a book drive to promote literacy in foreign countries. For more information on Live2Free's upcoming club events, contact Ozaki at amanda.ozaki@eagles.cui.edu. To learn more about or donate to LiNK, visit libertyinnorthkorea.org.



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Cross Country sends some to Nationals

TAYLOR BUNDY
STAFF WRITER

The Men's and Women's Cross Country teams finished strong at the GSAC Championship race in Orange on Nov. 3.

The women placed second after Biola in the 5k, with an average time of 18:47.72. Rocio Pelayo, senior, came in first at 17:53. This was her first time getting first place in the GSAC conference. Placing after Concordia were Westmont, The Masters, Vanguard, Arizona Christian, and San Diego Christian.

The men placed sixth in the 8k with an average time of 27:26.92. Rick Avila, senior, came in second at 25:17.5 and will go to Nationals along with the women's team.

"The girls' team reflected the hard work they had put in up to the Conference. Knowing how tough the run was, it's clear they gave all that is inside," said David Diaz, sophomore.

"Our second runner [Jessica Marquardt, sophomore] was sick coming off of a flu three days before, so normally she comes in second, but she was fourth this weekend," said Pelayo. "It brought us down from the first place title, which was too bad." Nevertheless, Marquardt was able to pass several Westmont women near the finish. "If she wouldn't have passed them, we probably wouldn't have made it to Nationals as a team," said Pelayo.

The race took place close to home at Irvine Regional Park in Orange. Since the GSAC Championship usually takes place in Fresno, more family and friends were able to come and support this time. "Usually we don't get any home cheering 'cause we're always traveling," said Avila. "It's not even the fact that we're far away; most people don't want to wake up at seven or eight in the morning to go cheer for you in San Diego or someplace an hour

away."

One sprinter from track, Simone Ruffin, senior, was there to support the team. "I loved seeing how cross's hard work in practice paid off at the conference meet. Especially when Rocio came in first! It was a great day to be an Eagle!"

"I saw the A.D. [David Bireline, Athletic Director] and Assistant A.D. [Greg Dinneen, Associate Athletic Director] out there, which was the first time I'd ever seen them at a meet," said Avila. "I didn't see them until I was out in the race, but once I did, it was neat. I knew we were really coming along as a team then."

"Biola is now ranked fifth in the country. Right now, we're ranked ninth in the country, so our goal is to be the highest placed team out of the GSAC," said Coach Jim Brewer. "If we at least better our spot right now, it's a success."

Individual National qualifiers must be within

the top 15 of their conference, and only five runners advance to Nationals. The top five runners are not included if they are from the school that places first. On Nov. 3, this included any male runners from Biola. Since Avila came in second behind a Biola runner, he was the first individual to qualify for Nationals.

"It's hard to be a qualifier, because you never know if they're going to allow two teams or three teams to move on to Nationals," said Avila. In the case of the Men's 8k, the GSAC only allowed one team to go on to Nationals. If the top two teams—The Masters and Vanguard—would have advanced, Joshua Gomez, junior, would have been a fourth qualifier. As it is now, Gomez was one place away from going to Nationals.

The women's team along with Avila will be competing at the NAIA National Championships in Vancouver, Washington, on Nov. 17.



SportsLine



Kyle Borcharding
Staff Writer

Panic Time?

With the opening of the NBA season, it's no surprise that all eyes are on the Los Angeles Lakers. Their blockbuster moves were the focal points for the media throughout the NBA offseason. Over the summer, the Lakers acquired Steve Nash in free agency and Dwight Howard in the four-team deal that sent Andrew Bynum to Philadelphia and Andre Iguodala to Denver. The question looming over this team is obvious. Will this team of super-friends win the NBA championship?

The beginning of the season has spelled trouble for the Lakers. Losing their first contest at home to the seemingly mediocre Dallas Mavericks was only the beginning of a rough start, which has only gotten worse as they dropped 4 of their first 5 games. The offense isn't flowing like it should. Los Angeles currently ranks 23rd in the NBA in assists, and they have lost their best man for the job (Nash) to injury for at least a week or two. Dwight Howard hasn't yet provided the lights-out post defense expected of him. Even Kobe Bryant, the gem among his underperforming teammates, has turned the ball over at an alarming 4.4 turnovers per game.

All of this has already elicited panic from fans and the media about the Lakers' poor start. The team even fired head coach Mike Brown after only five games! After paying so much money to bring in superstars in the offseason, why can't this team win? The team has the best starting five in basketball with Nash, Bryant, World Peace, Gasol, and Howard. Shouldn't they already be 6-0? Leading the league in every category? Best team in NBA history? What's wrong with this team?

The only thing "wrong" with this team so far is that the expectations are astronomical. Maybe they won't finish with the best record in basketball history. Maybe they won't have the best record in the league this year. Maybe they won't be the top seed in the Western Conference. But this team is only going to go up. It seems that everyone has already forgotten the rough trip Miami took the year after acquiring LeBron James and Chris Bosh. Even that team, after starting the season 9-8, followed up by winning 21 of the next 22 games. The Heat also went on to play in the NBA finals that year and win the championship the following year.

We can't possibly draw conclusions after a few games, like the way we might analyze a football team that plays only 16 games in the regular season. There is so much basketball left to be played. I'm hardly a Lakers fan, but I can see that it will only take time to work the kinks out of the new offensive system in Los Angeles. The talent on this roster is incredible, and they will come around before long. So much of basketball depends on team chemistry, which is difficult to build without playing in high-pressure, regular season games. As this team develops, I think we will see one of the most talented teams in basketball history, even if it takes a month (or perhaps just several games!) to get to that level.

Let's not push the panic button yet. When we take a look at history, we'll see that teams don't magically become unbeatable by drafting or signing a few key players. That doesn't mean the team won't develop into something great. Give them time to work, and Lakers fans will not be disappointed. As for those of us who are not Lakers or Heat fans, well... let's enjoy the regular season and perhaps the playoffs, at least up until the NBA Finals.

Aquatic recap: Results indicate improvement

SAMANTHA STROM
STAFF WRITER

The swim and dive teams have been strong competitors so far this season. They competed in their third season competition Nov. 9-10 at the San Luis Obispo Shoot Out at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the Redlands Pentathlon at the University of Redlands.

The swim teams made an impression at their second competition appearance this season at the Redlands Invitational on Oct. 20. Both the men and women finished in third place out of six schools. "We are off to a good start of the season. The team is working hard at two-a-day practices," said Jeff Boss, Head Coach of Men and Women's Swimming and Diving.

Freshman Riley Smith had some big wins for the team, placing first out of 33 competitors in the 200-yard freestyle, and taking second place out of 18 swimmers in the 500-yard freestyle with an impressive time of 5:11.48. "I was very pleased with my races at the meet. As the season progresses with the hard training, I hope to swim at my peak when Nationals rolls around in February," said Smith.

Valerie Thorp, senior, placed third in the 400-yard individual medley, as well as the 100-yard backstroke, beating out 26 other swimmers.

The men's swim team also had a successful day, placing in over ten different races. The team did exceptionally well in the 200-yard breaststroke, coming in second, third, fourth, and fifth place. Starting at second place was Lucas Spencer, junior, followed by Josh Kloppenburg, Devin Kauffmann, and Devin Grimalda, seniors.

The impressive performances do not stop with the swim team. The divers also did exceptionally well with an amazing performance by Mary Ann McCain, freshman, and Jose Bahena, senior. Both had first place wins, McCain in the one meter dive and Bahena in the three meter dive.

The team's first season competition took place at the Pacific Coast Swim Conference Relays in La Mirada, where Boss and his staff were finally able to coach the Eagles in competition. "The first meet gave us much needed information of where we are, what we need to improve on, and how we stack up," said Boss.

"Coach Boss was the perfect coach to take over the team because he is tough when he needs to be

but also very encouraging and fun," said Smith. "He inspires me to train hard and want to swim my best."

The men's 500-yard free relay team consisting of Kloppenburg, Lawrence Oxborough, sophomore, and Kevin Donnelly and Lucas Spencer, juniors, came in first place with a total time of 4:13:40, adding nine points to the scoreboard in this first meet. The men's 300-yard breast relay team featuring Kloppenburg, Spencer, and Peter Brecht, senior, also had a successful race, placing second.

The women's swim team placed eighth at their first meet. The 1500-yard free relay team, including Smith, Carly Colin, junior, and Samantha Leanza, freshman, finished fourth with a time of 16:04:33. McCain also placed third in the three meter dive.

Though it is still early in the season, there is no doubt that the Eagles are getting stronger. For more information, check out cuieagles.com. The teams' next competition will take place Nov. 17 at the Orange County/Eagle Invite at SOKA University in Aliso Viejo.

NBA makes drastic changes in offseason

BEN DULL
STAFF WRITER

While some big moves this past offseason shook the landscape of the NBA, the Miami Heat are still a clear cut above the rest of the field thanks in part to the incredible performance of LeBron James. The Heat defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder 4-1 in the best-of-seven matchup in the NBA Finals this past June. The ever-elusive first championship finally belongs to James in his media-driven quest to surpass Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan to become the best basketball player of all time.

The Heat open as favorites to repeat as champs, due in part to the additions of sharp shooters Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis. LeBron James appears to have entered his prime and is predicted by many to be selected as the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the fourth time. James should receive plenty of help from his two fellow superstar teammates, Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade, both now healthy to start the season after being bothered by nagging injuries in '11-'12.

The Boston Celtics added guards Jason Terry, Courtney Lee, and Leandro Barbosa to offset the loss of Allen, a future Hall of Famer. The Celtics pushed the Heat to a game seven in the Eastern Conference Finals last spring. Boston once again should be the biggest threat to dethrone Miami in the East.

The New York Knicks hope to finally mesh as a unit, especially on offense behind potent scorers Carmelo Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire. Across town in Brooklyn, the Nets begin their highly an-

ticipated first year in the Barclays Center with All-Star Joe Johnson joining Deron Williams in the back court. Elsewhere in the Eastern Conference, the Chicago Bulls will eagerly await the return of star Derrick Rose from his knee injury. The Indiana Pacers hope to soar to new heights this season behind high-flying swingmen Paul George and Gerald Green. The 76ers could make some noise in the playoffs if fragile and immature center Andrew Bynum is able to dominate as the go-to guy in Philadelphia.

In the Western Conference, all eyes are on the Los Angeles Lakers and their new additions: Dwight Howard and Steve Nash. The championship aspirations of the NBA's largest fan base lie heavily on the bad backs of Howard and Nash. Howard is fresh off back surgery in the offseason, and Nash's chronic back problems require him to lay down when not in the game. Health concerns aside, Kobe Bryant's hunger for another championship is reason enough to believe the Lakers can challenge for another title.

The Oklahoma City Thunder shocked the NBA world by trading star reserve James Harden to the Houston Rockets. Harden was the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year in '11-'12. While the trade worked out well for both sides, the Thunder will never find another player as dynamic and special as Harden. The Rockets have immediately become playoff contenders after pairing Harden with Jeremy Lin, who is out to prove his success with the Knicks was not a fluke. Regardless, Oklahoma City is still home of the reigning Western Conference champions and two of the best basketball players on Earth,

Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

The San Antonio Spurs, Denver Nuggets, and Memphis Grizzlies could all challenge the Lakers and Thunder in the West. The Spurs refuse to drop off behind Tim Duncan and Tony Parker. The Nuggets acquired Olympian Andre Iguodala and were even picked to have the best record in the Western Conference by ESPN Magazine. The Grizzlies are finally healthy again and should bully opponents inside with the emergence of All-Star center Marc Gasol, younger brother of fellow All-Star Pau of the Lakers. Rookie of the Year favorites Anthony Davis and Damian Lillard hope to lead their respective teams, the Hornets and Trail Blazers, to a surprise playoff berth, while the Minnesota Timberwolves could end their lengthy playoff drought if All-Star Kevin Love is able to return soon from injury.

What does the NBA have in store for viewers this season? League Commissioner David Stern announced his plans to retire after the '13-'14 season, and the league has promised to crack down on "flopping," a term used to describe pathetic acting jobs by players to draw a foul call or reaction from a referee. Will the Lakers and Heat meet in the Finals, finally pitting James and Bryant against one another on the NBA's biggest stage? Who will be the next Jeremy Lin? How good is the real Jeremy Lin? Anyone can ask these questions and make their own predictions, but now that basketball season has finally arrived, it is time for the guesswork to end as we enjoy the performances of these grossly-paid, over-dramatic, insanely talented athletes on the court.

Faces unveiled

DAETONA LAURENCE
SPORTS EDITOR

The results are in, and it seems the consensus on Concordia's production of *Till We Have Faces* is that the play was very well executed by both cast and crew. The actors were on point, and the play took average Friday night thought to a much deeper level. *Till We Have Faces* is a dense play based on a novel by C.S. Lewis. Many members of the audience were moved by the cast's ability to portray the original story. "The play was able to capture the heart of C.S. Lewis' novel," said Marianne White, senior. "It was great to watch such a well known myth come to life. The actors did a wonderful job."

The play divides the principal character of Orual between two different actors in order to make an impression on the audience while simultaneously interweaving narration and action. On its most basic level, the play tells the story of Orual and Redival, princesses with an oppressive and of-fense father determined to have a son.

On his quest for an heir, the King marries a new wife and immediately impregnates her. Unfortunately for him, the child is a beautiful daughter named Psyche. When Psyche is born, the real story begins. With a few jokes, a strong theme of obsession, and some ups and downs along the way, the

play captures the hearts and attention of the audience.

Concordia's actors got down to business when it came to executing their craft with perfection. "They did a wonderful job. Their enunciation was very clear, and I could hear every word," said Thea Gavin, Associate Professor of English. "It was very moving and made me think. The play had everything I like in drama, even a few laughs." The actors' enunciation was not the only thing audible in the theatre. The play incorporated an interesting variety of different musical instruments, which was a pleasant surprise.

Brittany Roth, senior, is currently working on the production crew as the play's house manager and described the play's environment with a positive attitude. "The cast is fun. The crew is fun. I guess you could say we're just like a big theatre family." The big theatre family pulled together and put on a successful and entertaining show for the nearly full theatre on Friday.

Till We Have Faces is a profound and complex play that reaches deeper levels than the novice play-goer might be prepared for. "Well, I'm going to spend the next eight days thinking about it. There's a lot there. And the actors did a great job; they always do," said Elizabeth Rhea, senior.

For more information on the upcoming productions, visit cui.edu/thearts.



Liz Cobb portraying the queen in a climactic moment

Grimm gallery tells a unique story

BRITTANI NAGY
STAFF WRITER

The art exhibition "Narrative", located in the John and Linda Friend Art Gallery in Grimm Hall, features two unique artists from the Ukraine and Russia, Gregory Radionov and Eugene Serëgin. This exhibit will be up until Nov. 28, and the artists have combined forces for their first dual exhibition. While each artist has his own original style, they complement each other nicely. Radionov masters watercolor, and Serëgin conquers metal and wood with his sculptures. These two artists have been acquaintances for seven years.

Starting at a young age, Radionov was in art school in the Ukraine on a very narrow path of education. He achieved his Masters in Art from the Ukrainian Art Academy. In the 90's, he came with his family to America in hopes of creating a better life. He took a short break from painting until 2007, when he picked up the paintbrush again and started creating watercolor pieces. Since learning how to control watercolor, he has produced many works of art that are absolutely stunning.

"I want to make art as a subject matter. If people are interested in [my art], they will understand the message I am trying to get to them," said Radionov. He said that every piece of his art is a story, and

that he likes to use multiple levels, or story lines, in his pieces.

When Serëgin came to America from Russia, he came to enhance his art career. Serëgin said that it was at a very young age when he became interested in art; he considered this an important time in his childhood. Using metal and wood, Serëgin creates sculptures, and the ones residing at Concordia are puppets. "He wanted to create another world through his art," Radionov said of Serëgin's masterpieces. He also commented that the message from Serëgin's work can inspire a different way of thinking.

"Eugene has over 40 years of experience in character design, building, and manipulation of rod-puppets and custom marionettes. He designed and created many different types of puppets for Sergei Obrastzov's Russian State Puppet Theater in Moscow for over 20 years, in addition to performances for movies and TV shows," stated the arts page of Concordia's website.

"I think that both artists are exquisite and classically trained in Russia," said Niclas Kruger, Associate Professor of Art. "This is a rare treat to have two artists with their skill levels. Being able to host an exhibit with both artists at the same time was a very unusual opportunity that I was delighted to take advantage of."

Concordia's website shared that this exhibition is called "Narrative" because it represents a "theme close to their hearts: [the] novels of life."

Cut loose with *Footloose*

JASMINE NAZIRI
STAFF WRITER

The theatre department will be hosting its production of *Footloose* from Jan. 24-27 on University High School's stage. With musical scores and scripts fresh from New York, the cast and crew are finally putting the show together.

Though Concordia holds four plays and one musical every year, on alternating years, the school performs musicals of a larger scale. Past productions include *Seussical* and *Beauty and the Beast*. "This year, the idea was to do a show that was very upbeat, fun and contemporary," said Lori Siekmann, Professor of Theater and Director of *Footloose*. "There are a lot of great dance numbers. I love the music, and it has an interesting sense on religion and law."

Siekmann has been teaching and directing for 21 years. Of those years, eight of them have been at Concordia. "As a director, I have a vision in my mind. When the curtain opens in front of an audience, there is so much excitement. It's just a journey. What I love most is the journey," Siekmann said.

Many of the students in the play are already thrilled to be working with Siekmann and their talented peers. "Handling situations maturely in regards to auditions and being supportive and friendly is expected out of the actors in the *Footloose* cast," said Jacob Schott, sophomore. "We're already acting as a team before production has even started."

"She [Siekmann] is so incredible. She is the mother of theatre. She always checks on you, making sure you're comfortable, and I'm so glad she is directing the show," Schott said.

The auditions were a cattle call style, meaning they were open to all students of the university. Being a theatre major or minor was not a requirement to be a part of this production, and a background in theatre was only encouraged, not required.

"What has been most amazing is meeting all the people. Most weren't even theater majors. It's a huge ensemble, and it's great to see all the people that love theatre and want to be a part of this," said Alex Dominguez, sophomore cast member.

While there are multiple versions of *Footloose*, the school's rendition will be based on the original musical with a few slight alterations.

"It includes many familiar songs such as "Footloose" and "Holding Out for a Hero", and it is entirely different from either of the movies," said Katie Braun, senior. Braun plays the role of "Lulu" and is the Assistant Director of the show. She is very excited to be a part of the production and, with 50 people involved, is looking forward to the hard work that will go into the preparations. "Plans for the show have been happening since April. The rehearsal process is going to be two plus months, and the cast members and other students working on the show help build sets in addition to attending rehearsals," Braun said.

With Rob Blaney, '92, as Music Director and a dedicated team, the cast and Siekmann believe this production will have an amazing turnout.

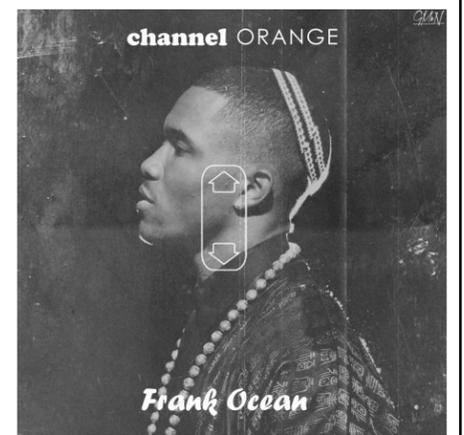
As a fan of the original movie *Footloose*, Garrison DeVine, junior, said, "I'm very curious to see how the students will perform such a classic film."

To get more information about the upcoming performances, visit the theater section under www.cui.edu/thearts. From there, you will be able to reserve tickets as the show approaches.

Tuck's Tune

channel ORANGE
by Frank Ocean

TUCKER THORSON
MUSIC GURU

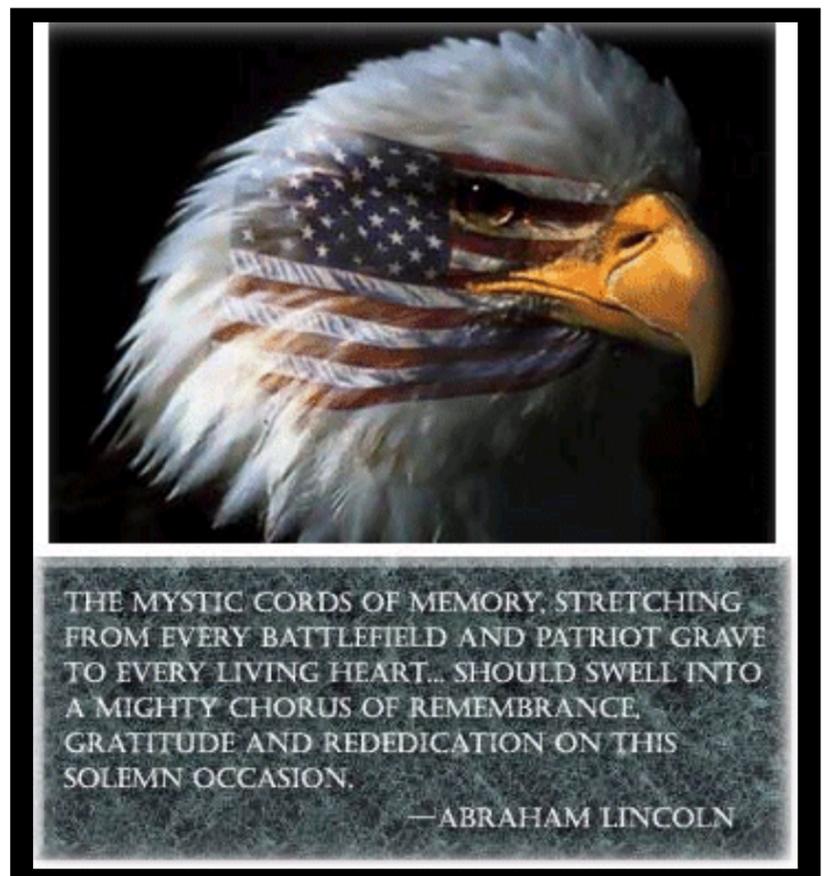


Frank Ocean is one of those artists with a voice that you come across once a generation. He has the voice of a soulful crooner that can give you the chills when listening to him. *Channel ORANGE* is the first full length album by Frank Ocean, a member of LA's rowdy Odd Future. While the rest of the group focuses on rap and hip-hop, Ocean has a wonderful R&B album where his voice really shines. I can honestly say that I have never heard a man hit some of the notes that he can hit.

Channel ORANGE is an album you can sway to in your down time when you're just relaxing and listening to some sweet tunes. My favorite two tracks

on the album are "Sweet Life" and "Thinkin' Bout You"; they seem to stand out the most. "Thinkin' Bout You" is your traditional R&B song, following the theme of heartbreak in a relationship, which a lot of songs in this genre cover. "Sweet Life" was the first track I heard from him, and it just stuck with me. I don't know what it is about the song, but I sing along (poorly) every time I listen to it.

I can definitely say that I recommend this album because of the fact that I'm not a fan of R&B, yet I still love this album. It's simply that good. If you're shopping for some new music, keep Frank Ocean's *channel ORANGE* in mind.



Concordia honored veterans with a concert this past Sunday. Let's remember them and thank them every day.

Thankfulness around the world

SARAH HOSTETLER
STAFF WRITER

Just hearing the words "Thanksgiving Day" immediately causes students to imagine gargantuan amounts of food, quality time spent with family, and afternoon football. Originally, this American holiday was created in commemoration of our pilgrim forefathers, but it has evolved into a season during which people step back and realize exactly what they have to be thankful for and the people who have blessed them by being a part of their lives.

On Oct. 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, by Act of Congress, an annual "National Day of Thanksgiving" on the fourth Thursday of November as a "day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

This national holiday was put in place not only to remember our forefathers, but first and foremost to give thanks to our Heavenly father. When asked about the first thing that comes to mind at the mention of Thanksgiving, many people respond with "turkey" or "pumpkin pie," or other feast-related items, all of which are traditional favorites on this special day.

"From what I have experienced from Thanksgiving, it is all about the eating. People eat all day and then nap and carry on eating again," said Simon Harling, senior. Harling is originally from Southern England, and shared his experiences from the

four Thanksgivings he has spent in America.

"Growing up in Lebanon led for an interesting Thanksgiving every year," said Carina Bohsali, senior. "My mom is very westernized, and we had a lot of foreign friends, so my mom would do her interpretation of a Thanksgiving dinner; we'd have a turkey with hummus and tabbouleh." Bohsali said that when she moved to America and experienced her first Thanksgiving in the U.S., it was surreal. "I felt like I was in a movie," she said.

Mona Piller, a freshman from Switzerland, shared that this will be her first Thanksgiving spent in America, and she has been told that the food is very good. "The Thanksgiving celebration sounds similar to the way my family in Switzerland celebrates Christmas," Piller said. She enjoys that students are given a week off from classes and is excited to experience the holiday first hand.

"My favorite part of Thanksgiving is the preparation with my parents and siblings. We cook, bake, decorate, and laugh together," said Elena Rosenberg, senior. "As a child, I always looked forward to trying new ideas on our traditional recipes. That time spent together is the first thing that comes to mind when I think of Thanksgiving."

Concordia students will enjoy a week off for the holiday. I encourage everyone to enjoy the break, indulge in all of the Thanksgiving favorites, and spend time with family and friends while remembering why this holiday was established.

Disney does the Dark Side

REX LEARMOUTH
STAFF WRITER

On Tues. Oct. 30, George Lucas, the renowned visionary and CEO of Lucasfilm, met with Disney's CEO, Robert Iger. The meeting was held in order to finalize the mega-deal in which Lucas sold his franchise to the Disney Corporation.

This landmark deal that will combine the legendary Star Wars series with Disney has been a topic of discussion among numerous media outlets. The deal was finalized at a reported price of \$4.05 billion, according to Newsweek.

Disney will now take on the task of creating a new series of Star Wars movies that are rumored to start fresh and take on a whole new and adventurous storyline.

This deal has given Disney control of the Star Wars franchise itself, which encases all the filmed productions and the surplus of merchandise and memorabilia that goes along with it.

"It is now time for me to pass Star Wars on to a new generation of filmmakers," said Lucas in a written statement.

Star Wars has been an ongoing space-age tale throughout most of our lives and has become a family favorite for most.

"Star Wars was my childhood," said Jessica Bass, senior. "I grew up with the quotes, the music, and the characters."

The characters in the movie became memorable favorites in our lives. Jonathan Bennett, junior, recalled "R2-D2's adventurous spirit, devotion, and sincerity." He also mentioned that "one can never forget Darth Vader's infamous line, 'Luke I am your father.'"

Disney has announced that Michael Arndt will be writing the screenplay for the upcoming Star Wars VII. Arndt is well known for his work on Toy Story 3 and Little Miss Sunshine.

Because Star Wars was a groundbreaking science fiction franchise and has touched the lives of millions, this buyout has made history as Disney's fourth largest ever. This sale was only trumped by the \$19.7 billion purchase of Capital Cities/ABC in 1995, the \$7.6 billion purchase of Pixar in 2006, and the \$5.2 billion buyout of Fox Family in 2001 according to CNN.

These may seem like extremely large price tags on paper, but all of these companies are expected to have tremendous return rates, and that is the reasoning behind Disney's successful entertainment empire. "It does not surprise me that Disney purchased Lucasfilms for \$4 billion. Disney has the



potential to make probably triple or quadruple that amount over the coming decades," said Bass.

In a post sale press release, Disney stated that it plans to have a new Star Wars movie by 2015, and their overall plan is to release a new film every two to three years thereafter. "The first film is in early stage development right now," said Iger in an interview.

With the anticipation building and the stories in development as we speak, the only thing for Star Wars fans to do is to wait in anticipation. With the previous acquisition of Marvel and Pixar, one can only begin to imagine what Disney will do with the Star Wars saga.

"I don't know what to expect with the next film, but I'll be there to see it," stated Sean Derbyshire, junior. "Like the Avengers, these movies are just the branches on the tree," he said.

Disney and Star Wars are both known and loved worldwide, and "the continuance of the franchise by an extremely successful entertainment company brings hope for the future for the Lucasfilm franchise," said Evan Norton, junior.

Disney also plans on incorporating more Star Wars attractions into its parks. There has been talk of creating an entire Star Wars themed park, which would encompass the franchise as a whole. Soon, traveling light years away may only require a twenty-minute drive and a fat wad of cash.

Grad fair: What now?

NICOLAS TOWNES
STAFF WRITER

Concordia will be hosting its annual Graduate School Fair tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. outside the Student Union building and gym. The fair is an opportunity for students to connect with local, statewide, and interstate graduate school representatives.

"I think it is really important," said Elyssa Sullivan, ASCUI President. She isn't wrong either; there are many benefits to earning a Master's Degree. The Bureau of Labor Statistics conducted a population survey in 2011 which found that, on average, individuals who earned a Master's Degree made \$800 more per month than their Bachelor's Degree counterparts. The survey also found that people with Master's Degrees had a higher employment rate than those with just a Bachelor's Degree.

"The Graduate Fair is a great opportunity for all students," said Victoria Jaffe, Director of Career Services. "Attending the Graduate Fair doesn't mean you have to go to school right after you graduate, but you have a chance to network and get current information from representatives in case you ever decide to attend graduate school."

When asked a year after they graduated from Concordia, Jaffe found that 60% of students were looking to extend their education or were already attending a graduate school. Approximately 31 graduate schools are registered to participate in addition to Concordia's own graduate school representatives.

According to Jaffe, being able to talk with a representative, ask specific questions, and exchange contact information will increase your chances of being accepted.

A Master's Degree is designed to give students a more specific education for the career choice they decide on, and its value cannot be overstated. "For me, it was worth it because it will be useful for my further course of study," said Sherris Minor, Master's graduate in Government and Public Policy from the University of Arizona. "I think getting my masters was way more in depth and challenging than my BA course of study, and it is something I will continue to use."

Unlike the undergraduate studies, graduate school requires no electives or general studies and is much more accelerated with some programs finishing in less than one year according to Grad-schools.com. For students who find a particular major interesting, a Master's degree will allow for them to exclusively explore that subject matter in depth.

All students are invited to attend the graduate fair, and there are no fees or obligations involved. Jaffe encourages students to stop by her office in Career Services for more information about which schools will be attending. Her office will also give students a chance to receive valuable tips on what they can do to get the most out of the fair. She can be reached at victoria.jaffe@cu.edu for more information or questions.

Hurricane Sandy devastates East Coast

COURTNEY ORDAZ
STAFF WRITER

On Mon., Oct. 29, a late season post tropical cyclone known as Hurricane Sandy swept through the Caribbean and ended up in the East Coast of the United States. Hurricane Sandy is one of the biggest hurricanes in recent history and has been a devastating catastrophic event leaving dozens of people dead and homeless and millions without power.

"The most detrimental effect in my hometown was the power outage that took place from Oct. 30 to Nov. 5," said Ryan Kauth, junior from Central New Jersey. The power outage has been a total disaster for many residents on the East Coast and has caused many to lose contact with family members. "The last time I talked to my family from New York, they had no way of getting heat in their house and have been worried about the cold weather that is coming their way," said Catie Beck, freshman.

Although the power outage was one unfavorable consequence for those affected by the hurricane, it is nothing compared to the loss of homes or loved ones. "Tree trunks were being taken out and ripping apart the streets of the city," said Kauth. "Houses were taking a beating due to the immense amount of water that was washing them away."

It has been a devastating and emotional time for the people of the East Coast. "I am really sympathetic for the people who are still suffering out there, and it is really unfortunate that they have to go through such tragedy," said Ania Washington, freshman.

According to an article in Live Science, "The death toll from Sandy as of Nov. 1 was at least 149. The confirmed deaths include 42 in New York; 12 in New Jersey; nine in Maryland; six in Pennsylvania; five in West Virginia; four in Connecticut; two in Virginia; and one in North Carolina." Though much destruction has been done, there have been many contributions to aid the East Coast in their time of need. According to the New York Daily News, "The New York Giants announced that they are donating \$500,000 to relief effort. The contribution was split between two different groups: the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund, which will focus on the Jersey Shore, and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City."

"I have family and friends in New York, and I have constantly been keeping them in my prayers and letting them know that there is an end to all this damage," says Beck.

Although Hurricane Sandy has brought violence and tragedy to the East Coast, we must keep them in our hearts and keep a positive mindset.

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BANTER WITH CANTER

Josh Canter, junior, went back to the CSLD to ask Brianna Springer, LEAD Program Coordinator, a few questions about her life.

- Born in Huntington Beach, CA
- Loved to ride her beach cruiser all over town and live by the ocean
- Attended Moffett Elementary School and participated in Junior Lifeguards
- Swam and played water polo at Edison High School
- Was a Junior High Youth Leader at her church
- Chose Concordia for the Behavioral Science major, plus the dorms and caf are great
- Wanted to build new friendships, and no one she knew went to Concordia
- Was one of the first ODK members, served as a PAL, and later as a PAC
- Loved the education and experience, and still keeps in touch with friends she made
- After graduation from Concordia, pursued her Master's Degree in Social Work from Baylor University
- Chose Baylor because it had the same feel as Concordia
- Went to a rodeo, Polka festival, state fair, and many football games while in Texas
- Purchased her first pair of cowboy boots there as well
- Had an internship in Hawaii for six months
- Living there developed her heart for children
- Fell in love with the culture, which changed her whole perspective
- Moved back to California after graduation and worked in the non-profit world
- Took a position at Jack-in-the-Box corporate, where she learned a lot about business and grew a passion for leadership
- Started working at Concordia again and loves it
- Finds it encouraging to see the traditions she started still in place and feels a part of the community again
- Wants to make an impact at Concordia and see the students continue to grow
- Plans on retiring to Hawaii, only after traveling around the world
- Hopes to die in her sleep peacefully knowing that she lived to serve others with her loved ones by her side

Question of the Year: If you could be any type of fruit, what would you be and why?
Pineapple, because it's slightly sweet and also slightly tart. Not to mention she would get to hang out in Hawaii all day.



CAF *creations*

SHEA THORSON
STAFF WRITER

BLTT with homemade Honey Mustard

Saturday morning. The sun is shining, no classes to attend, and brunch at 10:30. Every once in a while, I am not in the mood for breakfast when I am at brunch. Instead, one of my favorite sandwiches to make on the weekend is a BLTT. So here is what you will need to get to make your BLTT for next Saturday's brunch. You choose the type of bread; I prefer whole wheat toasted. The essential ingredients will be lettuce, tomato, turkey, and bacon from the breakfast line. Honey mustard will add a little sweetness to the savory flavor of the bacon, so here is how I make my own in the caf.

Put some mustard in a bowl (probably 2 to 3 tablespoons) with about a tablespoon of honey, mix it together, and smother the delicious honey mustard on the bread. Add the other sandwich ingredients to your toasted honey mustard bread; I also enjoy pepper jack cheese and onions on it as well, though they are optional. You now have a BLTT, so grab a few napkins and dive in!

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Rutabe-gorge yourself

EMILY GESKE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The first thing I noticed walking into Rutabegorz—besides finally seeing the right way to spell the name—was the welcoming and charming atmosphere. Located in Old Town Tustin (one of its three locations), the restaurant inhabits a small neoclassical building complete with columns and is one of the oldest buildings in town. The unique environment transforms into more of a cottage-type feel once you walk through the door.

Even though I went on a Friday night, there were tables available right away. For an additional opinion on the food, I brought self-renowned cuisine connoisseur Levi Hamilton, senior, along for his perceptive palate. As we scanned the extensive menu—indecisive diners beware!—I couldn't help but notice how festive the place was, from the autumnal arrangements in recycled pumpkin ale vases to the plethora of seasonal dishes and drinks.

We both ordered off the seasonal menu to see if the food was worthy of its temporary addition—it totally was! I picked pumpkin ravioli with a browned butter sage sauce. The only drawback was that it was piping hot when it came from the kitchen, so I had to exercise a little patience in order to keep from burning myself. Once I started to dig in, I was pleasantly surprised. The dish included caramelized carrots cooked to perfection and candied pecans for a flavorful crunch. If you're looking for something with the right balance of buttery and hearty that's delectable enough to seem like a dessert, then I highly recommend that you get the pumpkin ravioli before it's gone.

Levi decided to try the turkey cranberry sandwich for a more casual twist on Thanksgiving flavors. The turkey and walnuts had a nice taste, but two ingredients really stole the show. The cream cheese was the fluffiest I had ever eaten, and the cranberry spread provided the surge of flavor that

took this sandwich to the next level. Though it appeared to be fairly normal, this yummy sandwich was not at all ordinary.

One of Rutabegorz's ongoing specials is its 42-cent dip of the month. For less than half a dollar, you can snack on chips and homemade dip, or something similar like last month's carrot sticks and hummus. Also highly recommended is the Chicken Enchilada Verde if you're in the mood for Mexican food. The beauty of the menu is that it includes meals from all types of cultures, from Thai to Italian.

The wait staff was friendly and attentive, and it was obvious that everyone there enjoyed their jobs, which added to the homey feel of the place. Looking around, the room was decorated with conversational pieces from 3-D paintings to a collection of teapots to a slightly creepy sultan statue observing your every move.

The food was so satisfying that, towards the end of the meal, we both started slowing down. A quick glance around the restaurant confirmed that we weren't the only ones reclining back or leaning against the wall as we tried to muster up the will to move. With generous portions including add-ons like pasta salad or toasted focaccia garlic bread, there was zero room left in my stomach to sample one of their freshly baked pies or cookies.

Another highlight of Rutabegorz is that they only use fresh, natural foods in order to create healthier meals. Though you may waddle out of there feeling full enough for a week—I know I did—you can at least feel a little less guilty about the quality of food you just inhaled.

The prices are moderate—plan on dropping \$10 per plate—but you won't leave hungry. Whether you're looking for a fun place to take a date or just in the mood to treat yourself to a home-cooked meal, don't let this tongue twister of a name deter you from stopping in and vegging out.



Wallflower not without its perks

MAGGIE DARBY
ARTS EDITOR

With the Halloween season having just come to an end and it being too early to celebrate Christmas, there seem to be no good movies out. After agreeing to review one for the Courier, I realized just how slim the options were. I could go see the animated *Hotel Transylvania*, *Taken 2*, or *Paranormal Activity 4*, but as soon as November 1 roles around each year, I'm completely over horror or thriller movies. I ended up deciding to go see *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.

I went into this movie not knowing what to expect, and to be quite honest, I settled on it because the new 007 movie, *SkyFall*, was sold out both times I tried to go see it. The cast seemed promising however, with Emma Watson in a leading role and featuring Paul Rudd. It is only playing in select theaters and has a very "indie-film" aura about it.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is based on a novel written by Stephan Chbosky. Not only was he the author of the novel, he wrote the screenplay and directed the movie as well. The movie focuses on Charlie, a 15-year-old freshman who is entering high school. He is an extreme introvert who has a difficult time making friends, so he writes letters to an imaginary person, using it as a diary of sorts.

The story revolves around him coping with his first love, Sam (Emma Watson's character), the suicide of his best friend, mental illness, and childhood abuse. As he deals with school bullies, the physical abuse his sister Candace experiences from her boyfriend (Ponytail Derek), and mental flashbacks that drive him crazy, he finds himself

losing hope.

It is at his lowest point when he makes friends with Sam and Patrick, senior stepsiblings who are a little bit of outcasts and a lot bit of crazy. They introduce him to a world of friends, parties, alcohol and drug use. As he is brought and accepted into their circle of friends, he finds himself writing to his imaginary friend less and less. He becomes happier in school and is able to cope with his illness much better. Inevitably this high cannot last, and events take place that bring Charlie lower than he ever was before.

This movie is rated PG-13 for teenage alcohol and drug use, sexual references, and a fight—all involving teens. The movie is set in the school year 1991-1992, though it is never mentioned in the movie. The nasty hairstyles and fashion sense the students sport are a dead giveaway for 90's kids however.

If for no other reason, you should see this movie just to enjoy the soundtrack. With a line-up consisting of songs by David Bowie, The Smiths, Cracker, and New Order, it is such a winner.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower emphasizes the importance of friendship and true love. It answers tough life questions that teens face during their high school transition. A memorable moment in the movie is when Charlie asks his teacher, Mr. Callahan, why the people he loves always fall for people who aren't good enough for them. Mr. Callahan (played by Paul Rudd) simply says, "People accept the love they think they deserve." If you're looking to see a feel good movie with a fantastic soundtrack, I absolutely recommend that you try out *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.

ATW II: Finding Grace

CURRENTLY A GROUP OF CONCORDIA STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS ARE TRAVELING AS PART OF CUI'S SEMESTER AROUND THE WORLD. THESE ARE THEIR STORIES.

SETH PREUSS
STAFF WRITER

"Hello Seth. How are you tooday?"

Welcoming words and genuine interest in my life awaited me each morning at Daya Dan.

"Did you do anything fun yesterday?"

Black iron bars were drawn aside so I could enter the lobby. Its white walls were immaculate in contrast to the alley immediately outside.

"No Ari, we had class until six again. How was Khaligat?"

After entering, I moved to the left and took off my shoes before entering the green double-doors easily seen from the alley. Children rushed us and led us again to the left through another small door.

"Ah, well. What did you learn about? And it was good. I love Khaligat. It is my favorite, you know this?"

"It was Hindi and a book called *Family Matters*, a post-modern novel by an Indian author. You know. Helpful stuff."

I met Ari my first day at Daya Dan, a home for mentally handicapped boys and girls under the age of 18. Ari was one of the first volunteers to go out of his way to talk to our team members. He has dark brown hair and warm brown eyes that hide a hint of mischief. He has a very wide smile that shows off his top teeth, straight and very white. He smiles easily and often, and the corners of his eyes pinch together slightly when he does.

"Ari, you're always smiling and you're so good with these kids. How do you do it?"

"Oh no, Seth, you are much better with the children than I am. But I am a flight attendant so I have extra practice smiling all the time."

Ari is very modest and humble. I learned this over the course of several conversations – if I pay him a compliment, he will give me two in return. One morning while we were hanging laundry, he asked me how I was able to understand so many different kinds of heavily accented English tongues. I told him it was a gift God had given me, and he lit up like it was Christmas.

"I like that! I have never heard someone say it like that before – a gift from God. I will try to talk more like that."

I told him he was very kind to say so; he returned that I was the kind one. I discovered over the course of my time there that I could not out-compliment Ari.

"Seth, why did you come to help Mathur? Do you love her like I do?"

I traded my story for his. Ari explained that he had been raised Catholic and always had a deep admiration for Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity. It was this admiration that had brought him to Kolkata to spend his three weeks of vacation time in service to the poor.

"Do you know Mathur? Her ways? She was so good, so gracious. Do you know what she said once?"

He explained her quote about the deal she had made with Jesus, that for every picture taken of her on earth she would get to send one more soul to heaven.

Another time while we were cleaning, he asked me what sports I played. I told him about my athletic career, and asked him what he had played. Ari is very well-built and moves with an assured grace. His walk was easy, almost sauntering, and his other movements flowed like water—nothing choppy, every gesture flowing into the next. He explained that he used to swim competitively.

"But no more. Now I am too laysee."

If only one word could describe Ari, it would be grace. It sums up more than his movements; it also characterizes the way he lives and how he interacted with the children. During dance time, if the boys didn't know what to do, Ari would teach them to "saalsa."

"Like this, Bear-nard. Yes! Very good! No, no, Manu. Don't hit Johnny."

In speaking with him, I learned that Ari is a very determined, very patient individual. He told me that he has worked for TAM Airlines for the past ten years and wants to become a business-class steward on international flights to Europe.

When Ari began with TAM as an 18-year-old, he was an understudy in the economy class for domestic flights. From there, he progressed to where he is now, an economy steward on flights to the US and other countries in South America.

"Ten years seems like a long time to move so little," I said to him once. I regret saying that now, because it belittles all the progress he made. But he ignored the accidental slight and explained, "Oh, it's not so bad. But you see, there are many employees, a lot of hierarchie – is that the word?"

"Hierarchy. Higher-arky."

"Yes. Hierarchy. There are many employees older than me. But soon it will be my turn. And I can move up faster when I pass my English test."

As we scrubbed the dirt off the boys' exercise mats and out of the carpets we had brought down from the second floor, Ari explained that passing the TAM English test would boost him automatically into business class for US flights and help him move up that much faster.

"I took it... eight months ago. Yes. But I failed.... Sometimes I don't know how to express myself. I forget the word I want, or I sometimes don't know the word at all."

Examples of this come up every so often. One random unknown word for Ari was apron.

"Do you not have to wear an apron as a steward?"

"No, no. I wear a suit," he said, and later he pulled out his camera to show me a picture of him on board the flight. In it, a younger Ari stood next to a seat in a dark navy blue suit, complete with vest, tie, and gold cuff links.

"Look also—see how much gel they make us use? I could stand behind the engine, and still my hair would not move."

